

ARROWHEAD

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A MUCH REDUCED NEWSLETTER: Sorry for this reduced newsletter. The weight of the Journal means a 250 gramme package for every member. Hope to return to full-size next issue but in the meantime, perhaps these four pages will let you know that the Newsletter Editor is still alive and kicking. Keep sending in your offerings - the more there is, the wider the choice.

FOREST OF DEAN. Some members have written saying where is the Forest of Dean, and is there any archery connection. Well it's in Gloucestershire, on the west bank of the River Severn, close to the Welsh Borders. Archerywise it has a long history, and I am hopeful that an Archery-Antiquarian Weekend can be arranged later this year to introduce it to our members.

The records of the reign of Edward II show that the military services of the Foresters were required, even at places as distant as Berwick upon Tweed. Foresters were summoned to appear in 1310,1311,1315, 1317,1319 and 1355. In 1310 the Keeper of the Forest of Dean, and Constable of St.Briavels, was commanded to select 100 archers and 12 miners for the war. In the following year, writs were addressed directing that out of 50 men to be supplied for the war, the larger number must be from the Forest Of Dean. The population were regarded as a brave and skilful race, able archers, and also sappers and miners from the nature of their everyday occupations.

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EDITORIAL: How the time flies when one is fully occupied.

===== It doesn't seem that long ago when I was producing the October 1983 issue of Arrowhead - now I have just collected all the Journals, and have to produce everything else to put in the envelopes and send to you, our members and friends.

This issue of the Journal is an exceptionally heavy one, and I shall be cutting my cloth to keep the weight of everything else that goes into the envelope, to keep within the postage weight-step.

Many many thanks to all you good people that have written to me. Your letters are appreciated, so are your Christmas Cards, of which I received a goodly number.

Sincerely,
Alf Webb

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: Any matter printed in this newsletter, if opinion or viewpoint, is that of the Editor and/or his correspondents and cannot be taken to represent the officially held opinion or viewpoint of the Society of Archery-Antiquaries.

St.HUBERT. A perfect volley of correspondence on this item from the last Arrowhead. Thanks to Gerard van Opdorp, Renate van Hinte, Marc de Schrijver, Henry Blyth, Ron McAllister, Wilf Dodds, Bill Paterson and many others who contributed.

Marc de Schrijver tells me that his hunting weapon is the crossbow and the broadheaded arrow in his hand is a crossbow bolt. Renate tells me the saint is very well known in Germany as well as the Netherlands as the patron saint of hunters, and also referred me to an article by Al Tibbs of USA who preferred St.Hubertus to St.Edmund or St.Sebastian, as Hubertus was supposed to have been a jolly old fellow who liked a beaker now and again, so he found him more fitting for archers.

Both Gerard van Opdorp and Ron McAllister bring in information concerning King David 1st of Scotland, as this excerpt from:

"The Palace of Holyroodhouse", Pitkin Pictorials, 1980.
'According to this 15th-century liturgical manuscript, (Holyrood Ordinale) David I was ensconced in Edinburgh Castle on 14th Sept. 1128 after hearing Mass on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Against the proverbially sound advice of Alwin-an English canon who was also the king's personal secretary and confessor - he was persuaded to go hunting in the great forest of Drumseugh that sprawled for miles around the area now occupied by Holyroodhouse. Approaching the north side of Salisbury Crag the king was startled by a stag that darted from a little spring. David I toppled from his horse and was at the mercy of the stag. He was gored in the thigh and helpless before further assault when, miraculously, a holy rood appeared between the stag's antlers. Seizing this holy weapon the king was able to put the stag to flight; it returned to the spring henceforth known as the Spring of the Cross.'

The legend was not original but lifted from identical stories relating to St.Eustace (c.118) and St.Hubert, (656-727). However it was retained in Scottish folklore and in the coat of arms of the Canongate (which survived as a burgh until 1856 when it was submerged in the city of Edinburgh).'

TATTIE BOGLE SHOOT Member Mike Brown of Northampton Casuals Archery Club tells me about their second Tattie Bogle Shoot, where acting on instructions from Richard Galloway, they had a candle-lit Halloween Pumpkin at clout distance on top of a pole. Traditionally the pumpkin has carrot ears, and the archer hitting one of these is a devil, and anybody hitting both becomes the 'arch-devil'. He said the event was very popular and especially the barbecue held with it.

His P.S. states it's a Scottish idea. Any others know anything about it.

WAS THIS FIRST HEREFORD? Member Andy Bowman writes of an Archery Tournament on July 3rd, 1860, reported in the Weston-super-Mare Gazette. The judge was a Rev.Pigot, Secretary to the G.N.A.M., and the article stood out in that the Ladies and Gents., shot for the same prizes, the rounds being the new rounds of York and Hereford. Is this one of the earliest shoots where Ladies shot a Hereford?

ICE AGE HUNTERS. According to recent information in the media, a tent settlement from the late Ice Age was discovered by archaeologists in the Southern Netherlands, in the province of Limburg. Among the finds were a number of flint artefacts, notably one or two flint arrowheads, some heavy stones to weigh down the tents with, and some bits of red ochre.

These migrant hunters lived in roughly the same period as the artists who left us the rock drawings in French and Spanish caves, that is, about 13,000 years ago.

Dutch archaeologists say that this is the oldest settlement discovered in this area of Europe up to now.

SAILOR'S £200 SHOT AT SANTA A seaman from the aircraft carrier Illustrious, Steven Haines, 20, was fined £200 at Bournemouth, Dorset, yesterday for firing a crossbow at a giant inflatable Santa Claus.

Haines's pot-shot missed the 20ft. Santa floating over a Boscombe nightclub. "It was supposed to be a practical joke", he said. (From Daily Express, 13th Dec. 1983.)

I take it that the aircraft carrier's name should read "Illustrious".

TELEVISION ARCHERY. B.B.C.TV are looking for either an individual or a group of archers, who specialise in historical reconstruction, to help them in a documentary feature series on Warfare.

We've put them in touch with some members, but if you are interested contact Christopher Warren, Documentary Features, 01-743 1272 Extns 6299/6549 or Room 1076, BBC, Kensington House, Richmond Way, London, W14 OAX

WILLIAM A.BROWNE a former member of the Society, passed away suddenly September 30th 1983. Early editions of the Journal have some of his contributions.

ARCHERY IN BHUTAN. This picture had to be left out of the Last Arrowhead, and has been especially shrunk to get it in this one.

"The importance that is attached to archery in Bhutan can be judged from a page in a school book edited for Bhutanese children by Oxford University Press. There was this picture and the caption read: This is Ugyen. He is a man. His name is Ugyen. This is his bow. That is his arrow. ".



SORRY FOR THE DELAY. The Newsletter Editor apologises for the delay in forwarding your Journals. Packaging completed just too close to Christmas to risk sending in the post.